



Garden Quarterly Summer/Fall Edition



September, 2019

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice President: Joy Taylor
Treasurer: Open
Secretary: Audrey Thompson

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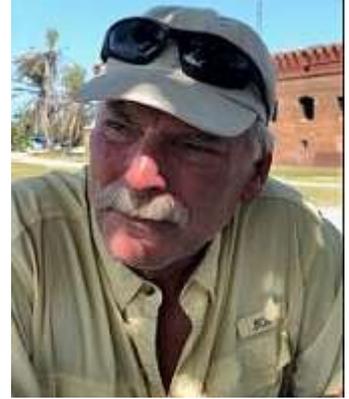
STAFF

Executive Director: Misha D. McRAE
Education Manager: Robin Sarabia
Asst. Education: Kelcie Hall
General Manager: Karen Frank-Noll
Visitor Center Greeters: Donna Krull/Mariah Waltz
Facility Maintenance: Rick LeGeyt
Nursery Asst.: Mary Nelson

CONTACT

Key West Botanical Garden Society
5210 College Rd.
Key West, FL 33040
305-296-1504
www.keywest.garden

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the Key West Tropical Forest and Botanical Gardens Inaugural **Scarecrows in the Garden.**



This is a call to community artists, not-for-profits and businesses to create their own scarecrows for display in the garden.

Cash prizes will be awarded in each of three categories.

Best in Show will be chosen by garden visitors.

Scarecrow creators are encouraged to use of natural and recycled materials. Individuals, amateurs, school groups and similar organizations are encouraged to participate, as well as creative professionals and businesses.

Deadline for submitting an application is Sept. 30.

Displays will be installed in the garden starting in September through October.

The entry form, details and rules are available at the garden, 5210 College Road; by calling (305) 296-1504, or at our website, keywest.garden.

Please join the fun and enter your display soon! Good Luck!



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With summer now past us, the Garden makes use of the weather to continue the rejuvenation we've seen all year. Longer days, rain and sunshine all contribute. It is this new growth that prompts time to pause and reflect on the past year and set sights on the future. We persist in our efforts to renovate, conserve, protect and promote the historic Key West Tropical Forest & Botanical Garden.

September marks the 2nd anniversary of Hurricane Irma which recorded a significant change in the Garden's history. We remember the aftermath of Irma resulted in a 90% loss of forest canopy, including a number of our historic legacy trees, State and Federal Champion trees and over 127 native trees. Recovery efforts were significant, costly, and remain ongoing. We could not have seen the success realized without the financial blessings provided by major private, foundation and grant funding, as well as community activism, volunteer efforts, Garden staff and even Mother Nature. All enabled the Garden to make a comeback and be even better than before. Currently, we have cleared, planted, repaired and completed over 80% of projects. Of course there is still more to do.



Of the remaining 3 projects, two are most prominent. Desbiens Pond is our natural, fresh-water pond (dating back to pre-Garden 1930's) with its Floy Thompson Pond Overlook; the storm picked up the overlook (dating back to the 1980's) and moved it off its foundations 3 – 4 feet. The Western Loop also experienced a major hit and will require an extensive reforestation plan to return it to its former glory.

A gracious thank you goes out to our anonymous donor and Garden benefactor who stepped forward with a \$50,000, dollar for dollar matching gift challenge last fall to help us toward our goal of \$100,000 to complete these reparations. With your help, 100% in matching donations has been received to match the Challenge. Thank you all. Please consider your own gift to the Key West Botanical Garden Society to help us match the gift by going to the Garden website at www.keywest.garden or click this link <https://www.keywest.garden/make-a-donation-today/> to make your tax-deductible contribution to help with the Donor Match Storm Relief Fund. Thank you.

It is this time of year when I like to look back to celebrate and give thanks for the devotion of our contributors, members, volunteers and staff. This year the Society welcomed 2 new Board Members: Susan Beale as Events Chair and Dick Rezba as Docent and Fundraising Chair. Robin Sarabia has been promoted to Education Director and Mary Nelson transitioned to Nursery Assistant. We welcomed Kelcie Hall to our Education Department and Mariah Waltz is our new Visitor Center Greeter. Join me in welcoming all to Key West's original 'Green Team.'

Working with the community; continuing efforts with FEMA and grants funding; Capital Projects for repairing the Boardwalk; replacing fencing; installing the Children's Playground; upgrading the Cuban Chug Exhibit; and installing additional signage--ALL are being accomplished with YOUR continued support, contributions and participation. Feel free to call me at (305) 296-1501 about how you can help.

The signs of a healthy Garden: We are growing.

I thank you for growing with us.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Misha McRAE".

Remember: 'Keep it Green and it is always a great day to be at the Garden.'

Native Buzz

by Bernhard Rasch, Board Member

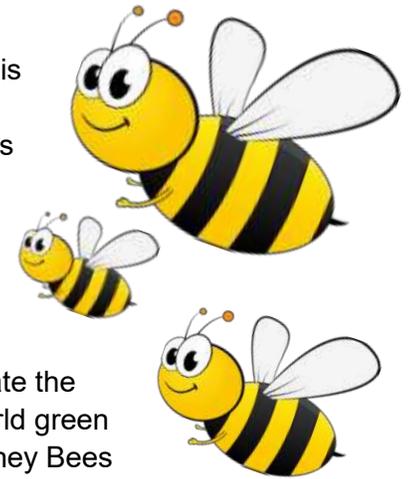
Pollinators come in all sizes and varieties.

Butterfly's, Bees, and Birds are the most familiar pollinators to the public. What is not common knowledge is the number of Beetles, Flies, Moths, and assorted uncommon pollinators that make up our interesting and varied Native Pollinators in the natural world.

Welcome to the Southernmost Beekeeping Club!

The Key West Tropical Forest and Botanical Garden has It's own Beekeepers Club.

A new and exciting expansion of our education department that hopes to educate the public about the many different pollinators and their vital role in keeping our world green and productive. While everyone is aware and concerned about the plight of Honey Bees and food production there is scarce attention payed to the role of Native Pollinators.



Butterflies are the proverbial Canary in the Coal Mine. Many butterflies are dependent upon a single plant variety as a food base for their caterpillar offspring. If the forage plant is missing from the local environment then caterpillars will find no food. No Caterpillars equals no Butterflies. Often the survey of available butterflies is an indicator of plant diversity in the areas.

The same is true for Bumble Bees, Masonry Bees, and Carpenter Bees. These are the three most common Native Bees in the Botanical Garden. They are highly dependent upon native plant species for food and propagation. Introduced plant species, habitat destruction, and introduced competitors all play a role in diminishing populations of our native pollinators. A little known and understood fact is that the Honey Bee in not a native to the Americas. They were introduced by the Spaniards into South America and Europeans brought them into North America. A very efficient and adaptable species they have evolved a socially dynamic insect culture that has traveled around the world.

The Southernmost Beekeeping Club was formed to educate the general public about the wonderful Honey Bee and it's vital role in keeping us with food and of course Honey! Over a third of the food that we eat is produced by the pollinating ability of Honey Bees. Their efficiency and sheer ability to adapt to a variety of environments has made them vital to our food supply, medicinal plants, and even our shade trees.

The Beekeeping Club was formed so that people interested in having a hive of their own would have a place to get experience in keeping bees, have a forum to learn the basic principles of beekeeping, and get hands -on experience in the safe handling and propagation of their own bee hive.

Along with learning about forage plants, health management of the hive, honey harvesting, potential Beekeepers will learn about sustainable environments and the challenges to keeping a healthy hive.

From Bees to Beetles, Butterflies and Moths, a practical knowledge and understanding of the relationships between pollinating species is vital to a dynamic world that can withstand the environmental pressures that are bearing down upon our fragile planet.

You Too! - Can be at the forefront of habitat sustainability and environmental activism as you begin to realize that Bees need Us - Just as We need Bees!

Interested Potential Beekeepers can contact the Key West Tropical Forest& Botanical Garden for more information, check out our Website, or look us up on FaceBook.

Sincerely,

Bernhard Rasch, Board Member

New Education Assistant

The Education Team is excited to introduce our new Education Assistant, Kelcie Hall! She hails from Warrenton, Virginia, and went to school at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington to study Biology and minor in Environmental Science. Her experience in education began with coaching gymnastics (after competing as a gymnast for 6 years!) and volunteering at the Fort Fisher Aquarium in the Education department. Kelcie moved to Key West during September 2018 to intern at Reef Relief, and then Mote Marine Lab starting in January 2019. Kelcie loves to scuba dive, snorkel, run and practice yoga! She has been a great addition to the Botanical Garden, and we're so happy to have her as part of our team.



Fun in the sun with the Living Lab

It's been a busy summer here at the Botanical Garden, where we've hosted over 450 participants in our Living Lab Summer Edition! The Living Lab partners with local organizations to host visiting groups of campers for a fun and educational experience to help combat the dreaded 'Summer Slide' - the academic regression experienced by students over the summer.



We welcomed students from pre-Kindergarten through 5th grade for exploration, art, engineering, and plenty of fun. Students painted using nature materials, protected model dunes from erosion, surveyed invasive species, and even completed a habitat assessment to determine whether the Garden would continue to be a suitable home for its plants and animals. (Of course, it will!)



Outreach in Full Swing

Garden educators have also been very busy participating in all the fun family events around town. During the month of August, we were invited to share an education booth at the 1st Annual Key West Friendship Games, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Eco Fair, and the HOB Kids Show; in only two weeks, over 1200 participants in these events had the opportunity to examine specimens, sort species of plants and animals into 'Native' and 'Introduced' categories, earn prizes, and learn all about upcoming events at the Garden. We're not done yet, either: we're looking forward to participating in Family Academic Day and Sugarloaf Marine Science Night very soon!



Nursery Notes

By Susie Reutling

We welcomed a new Nursery Assistant to the Nursery in May. Mary Nelson came on board, bringing a degree in Horticulture, nursery and landscape experience, and a lifelong interest in plants. If she looks familiar it's because she was one of our valued Visitor Center staff.

We recently met our botanist, Steve Woodmansee, at our EPAC restoration site up on Lower Matecumbe Key. Prior to DOT removing a massive number of invasive species, we were able to collect specimens of some rare endangered plants and grow them in the Nursery for later restoration. The site contains what is known as a Keys cactus barren. "Keys cactus barren is confined to the Florida Keys on limestone bedrock (Key Largo limestone) and is known from only six sites". "Rare plant species include Yucatan flymallow, bindweed dwarf morning glory, Florida Keys indigo, skyblue clustervine, and Joe jumper cactus". FNAI

We restored 20 *Chromolaena frustrata*, Cape Sable thoroughwort, plants to the site and checked on other species which had been restored at an earlier date. We were happy to see many plants reappearing; Hurricane Irma caused long term flooding and it appeared many specimens were lost. Seed was collected from *Cienfuegosia yucatanensis*, Yucatan flymallow, and *Evolvulus convolvuloides*, Bindweed dwarf morning glory. Our plants and those pesky weeds are growing like crazy in this heat and our recent rains.



Nursery Assistant, Mary Nelson



Bindweed dwarf morning glory

We offered Everglades tomato plants at our monthly plant sales; we sold out in ½ hour. though not known as a native the wild Everglades tomato was naturalized early on. It has "BIG" tomato flavor in a small dime size fruit. Another new offering is the Scarlet or Swamp rosemallow, *Hibiscus cocineus*, whose 6" scarlet flower is an attention grabber; it does require a somewhat moist environment.



Yucatan flymallow

As always, we encourage you to volunteer with us Wednesday mornings, 9:00 AM to Noon and visit our Plant Sale, the third Saturday of every month, 9:00 AM to Noon. We hope to re-instate workshops and tours this fall.

Maintenance Volunteers needed at KWTF&BG The Key West Tropical Forest is seeking volunteers who want learn about our native plants by helping with trimming, weeding, installation, mowing and general maintenance in the 15-acre Garden. The Garden supplies all tools and gloves. The Garden's nursery is also seeking volunteers who want to learn more about our natives by propagating, transplanting and helping to maintain the 1,500 plants. Volunteers meet in the nursery on Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 9 to noon. For more information, please call 305-296-1504 or email info@keywest.garden. Also visit the website at www.keywest.garden. The Garden is located at 5210 College Road on Stock Island.

Garden Guardians

By Audrey Thompson, Arborist

Trying to maintain a 15 acre Garden with one, part-time Facility & Grounds Maintenance person (Rick LeGeyt) is difficult if not impossible. Without our team of "Garden Guardians", (GG) the Garden's volunteer maintenance group, it just could not be done. Unfortunately most of our volunteers are winter residents and leave in May and June.

Our team for the summer has been just 1 or 2 dedicated, hard-working people and we could use a few more volunteers. It's hot and muggy and that's just the kind of weather that makes the Garden grow. Unfortunately, it's not just the native plants that grow but many invasive plants as well. It is important to remove these invasive plants so that they do not "take over" and crowd out the important natives that attract birds, butterflies and pollinators.



The growth spurt during the summer also means that trimming needs to be done to keep the boardwalks and paths open and free of overhanging branches and palm fronds, not to mention the grass grows extremely fast too.

Maintenance of this endangered sanctuary is hot and sweaty work but the rewards and satisfaction can be worth the effort. The Garden Guardians may work hard but in Key West you know you have to play hard too. We always have time for a little fun afterwards.



OUR GARDEN NEEDS YOU! If you have a couple of hours on a Wednesday or Saturday to help out it would be appreciated. Please contact the office or sign up on the website. Thank you.

The Key West Tropical Forest & Botanical Garden collaborates with the University of Florida (UF) and the Fish & Wildlife Commission (FWC) for an on-site study of native butterflies of the Garden in the near future. Misha McRAE, Executive Director meets with Taylor Hunt, UF/FWC Butterfly Technician, in connection with the Imperiled Butterfly and Miami Blue Butterfly Research and Conservation group to study and gain a better understanding of the Florida White's lifecycle and habits.

With the guidance of Dr. Jared Daniels, UF and the Florida Museum of Natural History Associate Professor at the Entomology and Nematology Department, the concern at the rapid disappearance of this species and hopes that with the Garden's help, we can find answers for the blanks spaces of its lifecycle and provide insight into the viability and stability of the Garden's Florida White population.



Visit us at the Nursery to see our improvements. We encourage you to come volunteer in the Nursery and/or in the Garden, Wednesday and Saturday mornings, 9:00 AM to Noon.

Plants sales are held the third Saturday of every month, 9:00 AM to Noon.

Don't forget our feathered friends!

We concentrate on attracting butterflies, but what about birds? Birds are an important part of our ecosystem; they are also pollinators, disperse seed (and fertilize at the same time), create nests that are habitat for other creatures, aerate soil, eat insects and act as environmental indicators. As important, they satisfy the human soul, with color, shape, sound and motion; their flight inspires our imagination and gives us a sense of freedom. Let us all value and care for our feathered friends.

Grow plants that provide food and shelter for our year-round residents and for fly-by migration; they will come.

Some native plants that attract birds.

Common name	Birds attracted to plants
VINES	
Corkystem passionvine	Hummingbirds, fruit and insect-eating birds
SHRUBS	
Beautyberry	Mockingbirds, Cardinals, Catbirds, Thrashers, Vireos, Woodpeckers
Cocoplum	Fruit-eating birds
Firebush	Hummingbirds, Warblers
Necklace pod	Hummingbirds, Warblers, Vireos
Wild coffee, Bahama & Shiny-leaved	Cardinals, Blue jays, Catbirds
TREES	
Blolly	Fruit-eating birds
Coffee colubrina	Warblers, Gnat-catchers, Vireos, Flycatchers
Dahoon holly	Cardinals, Mockingbirds, Wax wings
Figs	Mockingbirds, Catbirds, Thrashers, Blue jays, Wax wings, Woodpeckers
Florida privet	Warblers, Vireos
Gumbo limbo	Doves, Mockingbirds, Vireos, Warblers, Woodpeckers
Lamarck's trema	Fruit-eating birds
Marlberry	Mockingbirds, Catbirds, Cardinals, Fruit-eating birds
Myrsine	Cardinals, Jays, Thrashers, Woodpeckers, Fruit-eating birds
Paradise tree	Fruit-eating birds
Pigeon plum	Mockingbirds, Catbirds, Robins, Woodpeckers
Sabal palm	Blackbirds, Blue jays, Mockingbirds, Robins
Satinleaf	Warblers, Cardinals, Blue-gray gnatcatchers
Seagrape	Mockingbirds, Catbirds, Blue jays, Woodpeckers, Fruit-eating birds
Silver palms	Mockingbirds, Blue jays
Simpson's stopper	Mockingbirds, Catbirds, Cardinals
Thatch palms	Fruit-eating songbirds

rev2019 Audubon Society of the Everglades, Naturescape Broward, IRC, FL Keys NWR

KWBGS EVENT CALENDAR 2019-2020

2019

Monthly: Native Plant sale 3rd Saturday of the month
 Sept. – Nov. 30: **Fall Madness** Family Oriented Art Contest
 And **Scarecrows** in the Garden
 October 26-**Screamin Green Halloween**
 November 9- **Moonlight Stroll in the Garden**
 December 3 – **Membership Appreciation Tour**
 December 21—**Speaker Series** – 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

2020

Monthly:

Native Plant Sale – 9am to Noon - 3rd Saturday of the month
 1/18; 2/15; 3/21; 4/18; 5/16; 6/20; 7/18; 8/15; 9/19; 10/17; 11/21;
 12/19
Speaker Series – 1:30 pm -2:30 pm – 3rd Saturday of the month
 1/18; 2/15/ 3/21/ 4/18; 5/16
 Jan. 22 – **Membership Appreciation & Cocktail Party Annual Board Meeting**
 Feb. 15 &16 - **Gardenfest**
 Feb 27th **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner**
 Mar. 13 – **Sidebar off Duval – Silent Auction & Cocktails**
 Mar. 17-21 - **Olive’s Spirit 1st Anniversary**
 April 4 - **Spring Migration & egg hunt**
 April 14-17 –**Membership appreciation Tour**
 April 25th – **Earth Day/Arbor Day/Eco Fair**
 April – July: **Art in the Garden**
 Sept – Nov. – **Fall Art Exhibit**

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Yoga Key West

Yoga is held on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays
 From 10am to 11:15AM

Prices for Yoga are: \$15.00 drop in
 \$125 for a group of 10 (members can have a group of 11)

Yoga fees support the Garden and include all day admission to the Garden. Go to www.yogakeywest.org to register by credit card, or mail a check to Monica Haskell, 2819 Harris Avenue, Key West Fl. 33040. Please make checks out to Monica Haskell.

Questions - call 305-304-5635 or email monica@yogakeywest.org .



Membership can now be paid [online via credit card](#).

Don't forget to renew; your membership & helps support the Garden so we can continue to GROW for another 80 years!

You can also support the Garden by sponsoring our community events. The Garden needs and counts on you!
Contact staff@kwbg.org



**STORYTIME
IN THE GARDEN**
Tuesdays at 10:00 AM
in the Garden Courtyard

Bring your 2-4 year old and join us for books, songs and crafts!

A parent or adult caregiver must be present

Story Time is Free

You are encouraged to enjoy the Garden after.
Regular Admission prices to the Garden will apply
Children under 12 & Botanical Garden Members are always FREE!

5210 College Rd. Key West FL 33040
305-296-1504 kwbg@keywest.garden

The Key West Botanical Garden Society, Inc. is a registered 501 (c) 3 nonprofit corporation. The Garden is publicly owned and operated as a passive, natural resource-based public outdoor recreational site. It is the policy of the KWBG/S to comply with all requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Please call 305-296-1504 or e-mail the ADA Coordinator Mishna McNair: mmcnaire@keywest.garden at least five business days in advance for special assistance, assistive listening devices, or materials in accessible format.



Community Activities

Open to the Public

Toddler Storytime

Open to the Public

Tuesday 10am—11am

Meditation

Key West Tara Mandala
Saturdays 10am—12 noon

www.facebook.com/keywestbotanicalgarden/
www.keywest.garden



5210 College Rd.

Key West, FL 33040

Open Daily 10am-4pm

Holidays & Special Days

Christmas Eve—Closing 1pm

Christmas Day—Closed

New Year's Eve—Closing 1pm

New Year's—Closed